guests at the drinking party said, "I desire to be named, name me." Then the one in front of him laughter and shouted "Hello, so and so." Captain Baron burst into roaring laughter, and he opened his basket and brought out a package of glass beads and rewarded in this way the honor that had been paid to him. [221] The mothers do not lack tender affection for their children, who while young are reluctant to leave their mother's breast during the day or even during the night. It is miraculous that the mothers do not smother them when they are drunk after the drinking parties, although I never heard tell of such an accident while I was among them. If their husbands leave them, the wives keep all the children, and do not give the husband any unless forced to do so, for when the children grow up they become a source of support and subsistence. [282]

All the Caribs, men and women, have the same hair style. In order that this hair style is made possible, soon after the child is born a woman is chosen who kneads the head to make it larger at the top and smooths the forehead to be sloping down to the eyes. She flattens the forehead as well as the head, for they think that their beauty depends upon this. All the hair on the front of the head falls in front and is cut as it is done for small girls in France. The side hair covers only the ears, and both men and women let the rest of their hair fall on the back of the head. The mother, for almost two years, sits down during the day and puts one of her child's legs on one of her thighs with its head on her other thigh. When the child is asleep she opens her right hand and puts it on the child's forehead. She leans her left elbow on it and reclines her own head against it. She sleeps in this way with the child in order that the flattening persists. Because this is done they have big eyes which protrude from their heads. I have not noticed that this would cause their flat noses. [145]

The Carib women take a child by the hand and lift it high off the ground or from a hammock without worrying about hurting it. The child according to the habit which he has been taught places his bent left knee on the side of his mother, leaving the other foot hanging. The mother grasps him under the right arm and carries him in this way on a short trip. But if she should be traveling far she has a small cotton hammock which she puts around her neck and hangs on one side in which she carries the child. [311] As soon as the children are strong enough, their mothers put them in the middle of the yard where they have cleared out the stones. Here the children play, roll in the dust,

255 stand up, and fall down continuously, sometimes on their hands and sometimes on their behinds. They walk on all fours getting so used [401] to it that when they are grown up they catch up with the best runners in this way. [405]

[405] Sometimes the Caribs make incisions to cure some inflammation, but most of the time they do it out of fantasy. It is said that the children are gashed instead of being whipped, but I have not seen it done often. [435]

[515] [509] The Caribs have no other paternoster than the flute. The first one to awake at the cock's crow plays his flute, and the others imitate him as they awaken. After this they go to bathe in the river. The women and children go at a different time. Because the river is cold they make fires by groups in two or three places where they warm themselves. If they are soaked by sea water or rain, or if they are dirty or overheated by some exertion, they return to wash themselves again. Besides this they never fail to go bathing at noon and in the evening. I think that these baths contribute the most to the preservation of their health, and so do their fasts when they are moderate. [383] The children in order to learn how to swim and become accustomed to the ocean waves, as well as to amuse themselves, lay on small planks. They let themselves drift against the breakers and are driven back into the mouth of a river. Others who are stronger let themselves drift with the current of the river and meet the breakers which are rough and frightening where the river hits them, particularly in the district of cabester [sic] where the sea is rougher and the streams are faster. And when they see someone upside down in the waves, or standing there, they laugh to see them when we would be fearful. [314]

257 [223] The Carib children, having prepared birdlime, cut long poles and attach at the end a very pliable rod which has been smeared with glue. They hold it so that the end is near the flowers where the humming birds find their food. When these birds are not watchful, they hit them with the small rod and having been touched with this rod they remain stuck. The children run quickly, seize them, and tear off the glued feathers, [301] gut the birds, and wrap them in leaves. They dry them in the fire and trade them to the French for hooks and pins. [220] One type of fly makes [262] holes in the sand to live there. The small Caribs kill them, split them in half, and pick out a small sac filled with honey which they eat. [398] The children make horns out of the stem of a certain plant [466], and [504] the men make whistles out of the leg bones of pelicans. [267]

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
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765 The belief in the "uncanny" quality of the newly dead as well as of the newborn and yet unnamed child is very widespread. Whatever its origin, the local priests condemn this ceremony; and several have assured me that there is nothing in the Christian religion to justify it.

526 Until recent years a type of wrestling was much practiced by the Dominica Caribs whenever they were drunk or quarrelsome. I have never witnessed it personally, but from the accounts of all those who have, it seems to have been more in the nature of a sporting contest than of an aggressive attack.

Childhood: Games and Pastimes

608 Fred Ober wrote of the Carib children of Dominica in 1877 that they should be the happiest on earth because of their freedom to play and wander naked among rocks and river pools. Perhaps. But children the world over are usually happy as long as they are well, and rarely appreciate relative advantages or disadvantages. The street urchin of our own lands takes the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" as much for granted as does the pampered darling of wealthy parents his movies, candy, and other luxuries.

291 177 One may still find Carib youngsters clothed as nature made them running around and about their homes. This does not mean that they never wear clothes, but merely that dressing is to them what dressing up is to our children. The school has come to Salybia since Ober's time, and although few of the present generation of young Caribs have learned anything of value to them there, they have come to regard the everyday use of clothes and shoes together with the talking of broken English as marks of especial superiority. Can we blame them? The Negro policemen who have established themselves in the reserve despite Carib protest, the Negro storekeeper in Marigot where they run errands for their parents, their own Negro schoolmaster—they all do these things, and who shall deny that such august personages are their Carib elders' superiors in authority, wealth, and knowledge of the world?

355 Undemonstrative as they are, the Caribs show a great deal of affection for their children, and an almost equal reluctance to discipline or punish them. In consequence, the children do pretty much as they please, and neither eat, sleep, nor bathe at regular hours; but get their whack of coffee, rum, or whatever else is going. Like other young people brought up in the tropics, they seem apathetic when compared with those of northern climes, and will often sit quiet and idle in a corner for hours rather than bestir themselves to go out and play.

357 Even their games are usually of a sedentary order. In "pick-up," a game common to several parts of the world, the players squat opposite

11: Taylor E-5 (ca. 1930-1937)1946
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622 basis of their supposed wisdom and powers of endurance, and had to submit to such tests as fasting, drinking tobacco juice (a powerful emetic), stinging by wasps or ants, and scarification with agouti-tooth lancets.

Today the tribe as a whole elects a chief for his real or self-advertised ability to safeguard its interests and improve its lot. Unless deposed for gross injustice, he holds office for life; but no particular privileges attach to the position. Having no means of enforcing sanctions, his rule is limited to that of a paternal arbiter.[1]

[701] All records insist on the democratic character of Island Carib society. Only
[593] those who so desired joined a war party. A father would not dream of telling a sixteen year old son to come fishing, but merely announce his own intention of going. "Orders are given to none but women and slaves," says Labat; and adds
[562 567] that as far as he saw, both these classes were treated gently, and that many Caribs had real affection for their wives. The statement that they were also very jealous, and might kill a woman suspected of infidelity without proof or further ado
684 rather loses significance when we learn that, in their cups, Caribs frequently
[578] cracked the heads of men whom they considered to have injured them, and that in such cases, only the family of the victim, if they held the deed as unjustifiable, would take up the vendetta. Moreover, should a deceived husband not kill his wife immediately after discovering her guilt, not only must he not hark back to the subject later, but he was supposed to tolerate subsequent lapses provided they be with the same man (see term 20)! This latter, however, if challenged by the aggrieved husband, must bow his head and submit to being slashed with a knife, but was at liberty to return the challenge under the same conditions later.
[555] Children were disciplined little, and then, more out of sporadic ill-humour than in their own interest.

513 Although it has faded somewhat in the course of the last three hundred years, the above picture is still recognizable in its outline. The father has final authority in the household, although he usually leaves the management of children

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698 622 623 [666] 1 As a consequence of the so-called "Carib War" of September 1930 (see Douglas Taylor, *The Caribs of Dominica*, Anthropological Papers, no. 3, Bulletin, Bureau of American Ethnology, no. 119, pp. 103-139, 1938), the late chief Jolly John was "outlawed" by the local British authorities. A plebiscite by show of hands, held in the presence of the magistrate, resulted in his re-election by the Caribs, who continued to regard him as Chief until his death in 1942. Nevertheless, on the inauguration of the local authorities, a council of five was appointed to replace the "office of chief," which was discontinued. Divided amongst themselves, its members have attempted little and accomplished less. The number of disputes settled by them without recourse to the magistrate is but a fraction of those successfully adjudicated formerly by the chief. Thus far, their only material effect has been directed toward urging the local authorities (who give them such a yearly "Christmas box" of £5) to raise their "pay"!

11: Taylor E-5 (ca. 1930-1937)1946
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to his wife. He would be expected to beat a lazy or unfaithful wife; though when he comes home helplessly drunk, the roles are sometimes reversed. He may also chastise or even expel from the household older children who repeatedly misbehave themselves. Up to the age of about five, children are treated with extreme indulgence interspersed with sporadic displays of affection, temper, or indifference; and rarely learn to control their bodily functions until three or four. Later training is almost solely confined to ridicule or chastisement; and Carib parents rarely if ever question their adolescent children, or seek to direct or control their doings. Observation, not interrogation, is the rule; and even in adults, silence is the only answer to an unwelcome question. A young girl found to be pregnant might receive a beating from her mother, especially should she not have revealed her lover's identity; but pre-marital sex experience is, on the whole, taken for granted by the present generation of Caribs. Adultery on the part of a husband is not uncommon, and is regarded with indulgence provided that the wife and children do not suffer neglect thereby. Adultery committed by the wife is rarer, and much more severely judged, though it is unlikely to lead to a permanent separation. The guilty wife may be beaten, and some sort of reparation demanded from her accomplice, who acquires a sort of right as the husband's combesse (see term 20), however, to future privileges. The above remarks apply to any socially recognized, fairly permanent unions, legal or otherwise. The recent suicide of a man who had discovered his (extra-legal) wife's infidelity is said by his friends to have been due to shame at the girl's refusal to return and submit to being beaten.

That wives might be acquired in different ways, we learn from all sources. A woman's daughters and her brothers' sons had a sort of prior claim on one another, and often were promised by their parents almost as soon as born. Such engagements were not enforced, however, if they later proved distasteful to the young couple concerned or to their parents. Secondly, men might take wives of their own choice (except among those they called mother, sister or daughter), provided that the girl and her parents consented. Thirdly, a noted chief or war-chief might have to take to wife a girl presented to him, for fear of offending her parents. Finally, girls captured in war or otherwise seduced or taken without their parents' consent were called by a distinctive term (19). The former were often brought home as presents for the old men. Although the status of this fourth class was apparently somewhat inferior to that of the other wives, that of their children in no way differed from the rest. Obviously, such unions were patrilocal. Du Tertre[3] and Breton both cite cases of unions

3 J.-B. Du Tertre, *Histoire générale des Antilles* (Paris, 1667-1671).